



U.S. Department of Justice

Jessie K. Liu
United States Attorney

District of Columbia

*Judiciary Center
555 Fourth St., N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20530*

December 6, 2018

Robert Driscoll, Esq.
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McGlinchey Stafford PLLC
1275 Pennsylvania Avenue N.W.
Suite 420
Washington, D.C. 20004

Re: United States v. Mariia Butina
Criminal Case No. 18-218 (TSC)

Dear Counsel:

This letter sets forth the full and complete plea offer to your client, Mariia Butina (hereinafter referred to as "your client" or "defendant"), from the Office of the United States Attorney for the District of Columbia (hereinafter also referred to as "the Government" or "this Office"). This plea offer expires on December 10, 2018. If your client accepts the terms and conditions of this offer, please have your client execute this document in the space provided below. Upon receipt of the executed document, this letter will become the Plea Agreement ("this Agreement"). The terms of the offer are as follows:

1. Charges and Statutory Penalties

Your client agrees to plead guilty to Count 1 in the Indictment, charging your client with Conspiracy to violate 18 U.S.C. § 951, in violation of 18 U.S.C. § 371.

Your client understands that a violation of 18 U.S.C. § 371 carries a maximum sentence of 5 years of imprisonment; a fine of \$250,000 or twice the pecuniary gain or loss of the offense, pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 3571(b)(3); a term of supervised release of not more than 3 years, pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 3583(b)(2); and an obligation to pay any applicable interest or penalties on fines and restitution not timely made.

In addition, your client agrees to pay a special assessment of \$100 per felony conviction to the Clerk of the United States District Court for the District of Columbia. Your client also understands that, pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 3572 and § 5E1.2 of the United States Sentencing Commission, Guidelines Manual (2016) (hereinafter “Sentencing Guidelines,” “Guidelines,” or “U.S.S.G.”), the Court may also impose a fine that is sufficient to pay the federal government the costs of any imprisonment, term of supervised release, and period of probation. Further, your client understands that, if your client has two or more convictions for a crime of violence or felony drug offense, your client may be subject to the substantially higher penalties provided for in the career-offender statutes and provisions of the Sentencing Guidelines.

2. Factual Stipulations

Your client agrees that the attached “Statement of Offense” fairly and accurately describes your client’s actions and involvement in the offense to which your client is pleading guilty. Please have your client sign and return the Statement of Offense as a written proffer of evidence, along with this Agreement.

3. Additional Charges

In consideration of your client’s guilty plea to the above offense, your client will not be further prosecuted criminally by this Office for the conduct set forth in the attached Statement of Offense. After the entry of your client’s plea of guilty, your client will also not be charged with any non-violent criminal offense in violation of federal or District of Columbia law that was committed within the District of Columbia by your client prior to the execution of this Agreement and about which the United States Attorney’s Office for the District of Columbia was made aware prior to the execution of this Agreement. The Government will request that the Court dismiss the remaining count of the Indictment in this case at the time of sentencing. Your client agrees and acknowledges that the charge to be dismissed at the time of sentencing was based in fact.

4. Sentencing Guidelines Analysis

Your client understands that the sentence in this case will be determined by the Court pursuant to the factors set forth in 18 U.S.C. § 3553(a), including a consideration of the applicable guidelines and policies promulgated by the Sentencing Guidelines. Pursuant to Federal Rule of Criminal Procedure 11(c)(1)(B), and to assist the Court in determining the appropriate sentence, the parties submit the following:

A. Estimated Offense Level Under the Guidelines

The parties agree that, per U.S.S.G. § 2X1.1, the Guideline range for a violation of 18 U.S.C. § 371 follows the underlying substantive offense, which in this case is 18 U.S.C. § 951. The parties further agree that the U.S.S.G. does not specify a Guidelines range for a violation of 18 U.S.C. § 951.

Where the Guidelines do not expressly specify a Guideline range, the Court should "apply the most analogous guideline. If there is not a sufficient analogous guideline, the provisions of 18 U.S.C. § 3553 shall control, except that any guidelines and policy statements that can be applied meaningfully in the absence of a Chapter Two offense guideline shall remain applicable." U.S.S.G. § 2X5.1.

The Government's position is that there is no sufficiently analogous guideline for the underlying substantive offense and that the provisions of 18 U.S.C. § 3553 should control sentencing. *See United States v. Alvarez*, 506 F. Supp. 2d 1285, 1288 (S.D. Fla. 2007).

The defendant submits that the guideline that best captures the defendant's offense behavior and guideline that is most analogous for sentencing purposes here is U.S.S.G. § 2B1.1. *See United States v. Dumeisi*, No 06C4165, 2006 WL 2990436, *8 (N.D. Ill. Oct. 17, 2006) (same).

Your client and the government reserve the right to brief the presentence report writer and Court as to their positions and agree that the Court will decide which, if any, Guideline range applies. The base offense level for U.S.S.G. 2B1.1 is 6. However, your client understands that the final decision regarding the applicable sentencing guideline and offense level will be made by the Court.

B. Acceptance of Responsibility

As before, the Government's official position is that there is no sufficiently analogous guideline for the underlying substantive offense and that the provisions of 18 U.S.C. § 3553 should control sentencing. If the Court finds a sufficiently analogous guideline, however, the Government agrees that a 2-level reduction will be appropriate, pursuant to U.S.S.G. § 3E1.1, provided that your client clearly demonstrates acceptance of responsibility, to the satisfaction of the Government, through your client's allocution, adherence to every provision of this Agreement, and conduct between entry of the plea and imposition of sentence.

Nothing in this Agreement limits the right of the Government to seek denial of the adjustment for acceptance of responsibility, pursuant to U.S.S.G. § 3E1.1, and/or imposition of an adjustment for obstruction of justice, pursuant to U.S.S.G. § 3C1.1, regardless of any agreement set forth herein, should your client move to withdraw her guilty plea after it is entered or should it be determined by the Government that your client has either (a) engaged in conduct, unknown to the Government at the time of the signing on this Agreement, that constitutes obstruction of justice, or (b) engaged in additional criminal conduct after signing this Agreement.

Should the Court use U.S.S.G. § 2B1.1 in accordance with the above, the applicable Guidelines Offense Level would be at least 4.

C. Estimated Criminal History Category

Based upon the information now available to this Office, your client has no criminal convictions.

If your client is a known foreign national, U.S.S.G. § 4A1.2(h) provides that “[s]entences resulting from foreign convictions are not counted, but may be considered under §4A1.3 (Adequacy of Criminal History Category).”

Accordingly, your client is estimated to have no criminal history points and your client’s Criminal History Category is estimated to be Category I. Your client acknowledges that after the pre-sentence investigation by the United States Probation Office, a different conclusion regarding your client’s criminal convictions and/or criminal history points may be reached and your client’s criminal history points may increase.

D. Estimated Applicable Guidelines Range

The Government maintains that there is no sufficiently analogous guideline for the underlying substantive offense and that the provisions of 18 U.S.C. § 3553 should control sentencing.

However, the defendant submits that the most analogous guideline for sentencing purposes here is U.S.S.G. § 2B1.1. Your client reserves the right to brief the presentence report writer and Court on the reasons why. If accepted, the estimated sentencing guideline range for U.S.S.G. § 2B1.1 is 0-6 months’ imprisonment (the “Estimated Guidelines Range”). In addition, should the Court impose a fine pursuant to U.S.S.G. § 5E1.2, at Guidelines level 4, the estimated applicable fine range is \$500 to \$9,500. The defendant reserves the right to ask the Court not to impose any applicable fine. However, your client understands that the final decision regarding sentencing and the imposition of any fine will be made by the Court.

5. Agreement as to Sentencing Allocution

The parties agree that, if the Court finds that a Guidelines range applies, a sentence within the Estimated Guidelines Range would constitute a reasonable sentence in light of all of the factors set forth in 18 U.S.C. § 3553(a), should such a sentence be subject to appellate review notwithstanding the appeal waiver provided below. Nevertheless, your client reserves the right to seek a sentence below any Guidelines range ultimately set by the Court based upon factors to be considered in imposing a sentence pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 3553(a).

6. Reservation of Allocution

The Government and your client reserve the right to describe fully, both orally and in writing, to the sentencing judge, the nature and seriousness of your client’s misconduct, including any misconduct not described in the charges to which your client is pleading guilty. The parties also reserve the right to inform the presentence report writer and the Court of any relevant facts, to dispute any factual inaccuracies in the presentence report, and to contest any matters not provided for in this Agreement. In the event that the Court considers any Sentencing Guidelines adjustments, departures, or calculations different from those agreed to and/or estimated in this Agreement, or contemplates a sentence outside the Guidelines range based upon the general sentencing factors listed in 18 U.S.C. § 3553(a), then the parties reserve the right to

answer any related inquiries from the Court and to allocute for a sentence within the Guidelines range as ultimately determined by the Court, even if the Guidelines range ultimately determined by the Court is different from the Estimated Guidelines Range calculated herein.

In addition, if in this Agreement the Government has agreed to recommend or refrain from recommending to the Court a particular resolution of any sentencing issue, the Government and your client reserve the right to full allocution in any post-sentence litigation. The parties retain the full right of allocution in connection with any post-sentence motion which may be filed in this matter and/or any proceeding(s) before the Bureau of Prisons. In addition, your client acknowledges that the Government is not obligated and does not intend to file any post-sentence downward departure motion in this case pursuant to Rule 35(b) of the Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure.

7. Court Not Bound by this Agreement or the Sentencing Guidelines

Your client understands that the sentence in this case will be imposed in accordance with 18 U.S.C. § 3553(a), upon consideration of the Sentencing Guidelines. Your client further understands that the sentence to be imposed is a matter solely within the discretion of the Court. Your client acknowledges that the Court is not obligated to follow any recommendation of the Government at the time of sentencing or to grant a downward departure based on your client's substantial assistance to the Government, even if the Government files a motion pursuant to § 5K1.1 of the Sentencing Guidelines. Your client understands that neither the Government's recommendation nor the Sentencing Guidelines are binding on the Court.

Your client acknowledges that your client's entry of a guilty plea to the charged offense authorizes the Court to impose any sentence, up to and including the statutory maximum sentence, which may be greater than the applicable Guidelines range. The Government cannot, and does not, make any promise or representation as to what sentence your client will receive. Moreover, it is understood that your client will have no right to withdraw your client's plea of guilty should the Court impose a sentence that is outside the Guidelines range or if the Court does not follow your client's or the Government's sentencing recommendation. The Government and your client will be bound by this Agreement, regardless of the sentence imposed by the Court. Any effort by your client to withdraw her guilty plea because of the length of the sentence shall constitute a breach of this Agreement.

8. Conditions of Release

Your client agrees not to object to the Government's recommendation to the Court at the time of the plea of guilty in this case that your client be detained without bond pending your client's sentencing in this case, pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 3143.

9. Waivers

A. Trial Rights

Your client understands that by pleading guilty in this case your client agrees to waive certain rights afforded by the Constitution of the United States and/or by statute or rule. Your client agrees to forego the right to any further discovery or disclosures of information not already provided at the time of the entry of your client's guilty plea. Your client also agrees to waive, among other rights, the right to plead not guilty, and the right to a jury trial. If there were a jury trial, your client would have the right to be represented by counsel, to confront and cross-examine witnesses against your client, to challenge the admissibility of evidence offered against your client, to compel witnesses to appear for the purpose of testifying and presenting other evidence on your client's behalf, and to choose whether to testify. If there were a jury trial and your client chose not to testify at that trial, your client would have the right to have the jury instructed that your client's failure to testify could not be held against your client. Your client would further have the right to have the jury instructed that your client is presumed innocent until proven guilty, and that the burden would be on the United States to prove your client's guilt beyond a reasonable doubt. If your client were found guilty after a trial, your client would have the right to appeal your client's conviction. Your client understands that the Fifth Amendment to the Constitution of the United States protects your client from the use of self-incriminating statements in a criminal prosecution. By entering a plea of guilty, your client knowingly and voluntarily waives or gives up your client's right against self-incrimination.

Your client acknowledges discussing with you Rule 11(f) of the Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure and Rule 410 of the Federal Rules of Evidence, which ordinarily limit the admissibility of statements made by a defendant in the course of plea discussions or plea proceedings if a guilty plea is later withdrawn. Your client knowingly and voluntarily waives the rights that arise under these rules in the event your client withdraws your client's guilty plea or withdraws from this Agreement after signing it.

Your client also agrees to waive all constitutional and statutory rights to a speedy sentence and agrees that the plea of guilty pursuant to this Agreement will be entered at a time decided upon by the Government with the concurrence of the Court. Your client also agrees that the sentencing in this case may be delayed until your client's cooperation has been completed, as determined by the Government, so that the Court will have the benefit of all relevant information before a sentence is imposed. Your client understands that the date for sentencing will be set by the Court.

B. Appeal Rights

Your client agrees to waive, insofar as such waiver is permitted by law, the right to appeal the conviction in this case on any basis, including but not limited to claim(s) that (1) the statute to which your client is pleading guilty is unconstitutional, and (2) the admitted conduct does not fall within the scope of the statute. Your client understands that federal law, specifically 18 U.S.C. § 3742, affords defendants the right to appeal their sentences in certain circumstances. Your client also agrees to waive the right to appeal the sentence in this case,

including but not limited to any term of imprisonment, fine, forfeiture, award of restitution, term or condition of supervised release, authority of the Court to set conditions of release, and the manner in which the sentence was determined, except to the extent the Court sentences your client above the statutory maximum or guidelines range determined by the Court. In agreeing to this waiver, your client is aware that your client's sentence has yet to be determined by the Court. Realizing the uncertainty in estimating what sentence the Court ultimately will impose, your client knowingly and willingly waives your client's right to appeal the sentence, to the extent noted above, in exchange for the concessions made by the Government in this Agreement. Notwithstanding the above agreement to waive the right to appeal the conviction and sentence, your client retains the right to appeal on the basis of ineffective assistance of counsel, but not to raise on appeal other issues regarding the conviction or sentence.

C. Collateral Attack

Your client also waives any right to challenge the conviction entered or sentence imposed under this Agreement or otherwise attempt to modify or change the sentence or the manner in which it was determined in any collateral attack, including, but not limited to, a motion brought under 28 U.S.C. § 2255 or Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 60(b), except to the extent such a motion is based on newly discovered evidence or on a claim that your client received ineffective assistance of counsel. Your client reserves the right to file a motion brought under 18 U.S.C. § 3582(c)(2), but agrees to waive the right to appeal the denial of such a motion.

D. Witness Fees

Your client further agrees to waive all rights, claims, or interest in any witness fee that your client may be eligible to receive pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1821 for your client's appearance at any grand jury, witness conference, or court proceeding, during the course of your client's cooperation pursuant to this Agreement or any term of your client's incarceration.

10. Use of Self-Incriminating Information

The Government agrees pursuant to U.S.S.G. § 1B1.8(a), that self-incriminating information provided by your client pursuant to this Agreement or during the course of debriefings conducted in anticipation of this Agreement, and about which the Government had no prior knowledge or insufficient proof in the absence of your client's admissions, will not be used by the Government at the time of sentencing for the purpose of determining the applicable guideline range. However, all self-incriminating information provided by your client may be used for the purposes and in accordance with the terms identified in U.S.S.G. § 1B1.8(b).

11. Cooperation

Your client agrees to cooperate with the Office of the United States Attorney for the District of Columbia on the following terms and conditions:

- (a) Your client shall cooperate fully, truthfully, completely and forthrightly with this Office and other Federal, state and local law enforcement authorities identified by this Office in

any and all matters as to which the Government deems the cooperation relevant. Your client acknowledges that your client's cooperation may include, but will not necessarily be limited to: answering questions; providing sworn written statements; taking government-administered polygraph examination(s); and participating in covert law enforcement activities. Any refusal by your client to cooperate fully, truthfully, completely and forthrightly as directed by this Office and other Federal, state and local law enforcement authorities identified by this Office in any and all matters in which the Government deems your client's assistance relevant will constitute a breach of this Agreement by your client, and will relieve the Government of its obligations under this Agreement, including, but not limited to, its obligation to inform this Court and the Departure Guidelines Committee of the United States Attorney's Office for the District of Columbia of any assistance your client has provided. Your client agrees, however, that such breach by your client will not constitute a basis for withdrawal of your client's plea of guilty or otherwise relieve your client of your client's obligations under this Agreement.

(b) Your client shall promptly turn over to the Government, or other law enforcement authorities, or direct such law enforcement authorities to, any and all evidence of crimes about which your client is aware; all contraband and proceeds of such crimes; and all assets traceable to the proceeds of such crimes. Your client agrees to the forfeiture of all assets which are proceeds of crimes or traceable to such proceeds of crimes.

(c) Your client shall submit a full and complete accounting of all your client's financial assets, whether such assets are in your client's name or in the name of a third party.

(d) Your client acknowledges and understands that, during the course of the cooperation outlined in this Agreement, your client will be interviewed by law enforcement agents and/or Government attorneys. Your client waives any right to have counsel present during these interviews and agrees to meet with law enforcement agents and Government attorneys outside of the presence of counsel. If, at some future point, you or your client desire to have counsel present during interviews by law enforcement agents and/or Government attorneys, and you communicate this decision in writing to this Office, the Government will honor this request, and this change will have no effect on any other terms and conditions of this Agreement.

(e) Your client shall testify fully, completely and truthfully before any and all Grand Juries in the District of Columbia and elsewhere, and at any and all trials of cases or other court proceedings in the District of Columbia and elsewhere, at which your client's testimony may be deemed relevant by the Government.

(f) Your client understands and acknowledges that nothing in this Agreement allows your client to commit any criminal violation of local, state or federal law during the period of your client's cooperation with law enforcement authorities or at any time prior to the sentencing in this case. The commission of a criminal offense during the period of your client's cooperation or at any time prior to sentencing will constitute a breach of this Agreement and will relieve the Government of all of its obligations under this Agreement, including, but not limited to, its obligation to inform this Court and the Departure Guidelines Committee of the United States Attorney's Office for the District of Columbia of any assistance your client has provided. However, your client acknowledges and agrees that such a breach of this Agreement will not

entitle your client to withdraw your client's plea of guilty or relieve your client of the obligations under this Agreement.

12. Immigration Issues

Your client recognizes that because your client is not a citizen of the United States, your client's guilty plea and conviction make it very likely that your client's deportation from the United States is presumptively mandatory and that, at a minimum, your client is at risk of being deported or suffering other adverse immigration consequences. Your client acknowledges discussing the possible immigration consequences (including deportation) of this guilty plea and conviction with you. Your client affirms that your client wants to plead guilty regardless of any immigration consequences that may result from the guilty plea and conviction, even if those consequences include deportation from the United States. It is agreed that your client will have no right to withdraw this guilty plea based on any actual or perceived adverse immigration consequences (including deportation) resulting from the guilty plea and conviction. It is further agreed that your client will not challenge your client's conviction or sentence on direct appeal, or through litigation under 28 U.S.C §§ 2255 and/or 2241, on the basis of any actual or perceived adverse immigration consequences (including deportation) resulting from your client's guilty plea and conviction.

13. Interpreter

Your client agrees that if an interpreter is required to assist your client in translating this Agreement into your client's native language, then your client agrees to request the Court, pursuant to "The Court Interpreter's Act," 28 U.S.C. § 1827, to secure the services of a certified interpreter at the Court's expense to verbally translate this Agreement and related documents for your client into your client's native language. If no such request is made, then your client hereby declares that your client understands the English language sufficiently well to read and understand this Agreement, or that this Agreement has been read to your client in your client's native language and that your client therefore understands this Agreement.

14. Breach of Agreement

Your client understands and agrees that, if after entering this Agreement, your client fails specifically to perform or to fulfill completely each and every one of your client's obligations under this Agreement, or engages in any criminal activity prior to sentencing, your client will have breached this Agreement. In the event of such a breach: (a) the Government will be free from its obligations under this Agreement; (b) your client will not have the right to withdraw the guilty plea; (c) your client will be fully subject to criminal prosecution for any other crimes, including perjury and obstruction of justice; (d) no motion pursuant to Section 5K1.1 of the Sentencing Guidelines or 18 U.S.C. § 3553(c) will be filed or sought; and (e) the Government will be free to use against your client, directly and indirectly, in any criminal or civil proceeding, all statements made by your client and any of the information or materials provided by your client, including such statements, information and materials provided pursuant to this Agreement or during the course of any debriefings conducted in anticipation of, or after entry of, this Agreement, whether or not the debriefings were previously characterized as "off-the-record"

debriefings, and including your client's statements made during proceedings before the Court pursuant to Rule 11 of the Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure.

Your client understands and agrees that the Government shall be required to prove a breach of this Agreement only by a preponderance of the evidence, except where such breach is based on a violation of federal, state, or local criminal law, which the Government need prove only by probable cause in order to establish a breach of this Agreement.

Nothing in this Agreement shall be construed to permit your client to commit perjury, to make false statements or declarations, to obstruct justice, or to protect your client from prosecution for any crimes not included within this Agreement or committed by your client after the execution of this Agreement. Your client understands and agrees that the Government reserves the right to prosecute your client for any such offenses. Your client further understands that any perjury, false statements or declarations, or obstruction of justice relating to your client's obligations under this Agreement shall constitute a breach of this Agreement. In the event of such a breach, your client will not be allowed to withdraw your client's guilty plea.

15. Government's Obligations

The Government will bring to the Court's attention at the time of sentencing the nature and extent of your client's cooperation or lack of cooperation. The Departure Guideline Committee of the United States Attorney's Office for the District of Columbia will evaluate the full nature and extent of your client's cooperation to determine whether your client has provided substantial assistance in the investigation or prosecution of another person who has committed an offense. If the Departure Guideline Committee determines that your client has provided such substantial assistance, this Office shall file a departure motion pursuant to Section 5K1.1 of the Sentencing Guidelines, which would afford your client an opportunity to persuade the Court that your client should be sentenced to a lesser period of incarceration and/or fine than indicated by the Sentencing Guidelines. The determination of whether your client has provided substantial assistance warranting the filing of a motion pursuant to Section 5K1.1 of the Sentencing Guidelines is within the sole discretion of the United States Attorney's Office for the District of Columbia and is not reviewable by the Court. In the event your client should fail to perform specifically and fulfill completely each and every one of your client's obligations under this Agreement, the Government will be free from its obligations under this Agreement, and will have no obligation to present your client's case to the Departure Guideline Committee or file a departure motion pursuant to Section 5K1.1 of the Sentencing Guidelines.

16. Complete Agreement

No agreements, promises, understandings, or representations have been made by the parties or their counsel other than those contained in writing herein, nor will any such agreements, promises, understandings, or representations be made unless committed to writing and signed by your client, defense counsel, and an Assistant United States Attorney for the District of Columbia.

Your client further understands that this Agreement is binding only upon the Criminal and Superior Court Divisions of the United States Attorney's Office for the District of Columbia. This Agreement does not bind the Civil Division of this Office or any other United States Attorney's Office, nor does it bind any other state, local, or federal prosecutor. It also does not bar or compromise any civil, tax, or administrative claim pending or that may be made against your client.

If the foregoing terms and conditions are satisfactory, your client may so indicate by signing this Agreement and the Statement of Offense.

Sincerely yours,



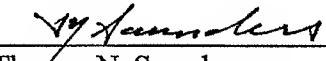
JESSIE K. LIU
United States Attorney

By:



Erik M. Kenerson
Assistant United States Attorney

By:



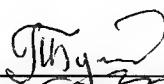
Thomas N. Saunders
Assistant United States Attorney

DEFENDANT'S ACCEPTANCE

I have read every page of this Agreement and have discussed it with my attorneys Robert Driscoll and Alfred Carry. I fully understand this Agreement and agree to it without reservation. I do this voluntarily and of my own free will, intending to be legally bound. No threats have been made to me nor am I under the influence of anything that could impede my ability to understand this Agreement fully. I am pleading guilty because I am in fact guilty of the offense identified in this Agreement.

I reaffirm that absolutely no promises, agreements, understandings, or conditions have been made or entered into in connection with my decision to plead guilty except those set forth in this Agreement. I am satisfied with the legal services provided by my attorney in connection with this Agreement and matters related to it.

Date: 12/8/2018


Mariia Butina, a/k/a Maria Butina
Defendant

ATTORNEY'S ACKNOWLEDGMENT

I have read every page of this Agreement, reviewed it with my client Mariia Butina, a/k/a Maria Butina, and fully discussed the provisions of this Agreement with my client. These pages accurately and completely set forth the entire Agreement. I concur in my client's desire to plead guilty as set forth in this Agreement.

Date: 12/8/2018


Robert Driscoll
Attorney for Defendant

Date: 12/8/2018


Alfred Carry
Attorney for Defendant

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA**

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|-------------------------------------|---|------------------------------------|
| UNITED STATES OF AMERICA | : | |
| | : | |
| | : | Criminal Case: 18-218 (TSC) |
| v. | : | |
| | : | |
| | : | |
| MARIIA BUTINA, also known as | : | |
| MARIA BUTINA, | : | |
| | : | |
| Defendant. | : | |

STATEMENT OF OFFENSE

Pursuant to the Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure 11, the United States and Defendant Maria Butina (“Butina”) stipulate and agree that the following facts are true and accurate. These facts do not constitute all facts known to the parties concerning the charged offense and covered conduct. This statement is being submitted by the parties to demonstrate that sufficient facts exist to establish that the defendant committed the offense to which she is pleading guilty.

Statement of Facts

The government’s evidence includes, but is not limited to, the following:

Mariia V. Butina, also known as Maria Butina, is a citizen of the Russian Federation. U.S. Person 1 is a United States citizen. Beginning no later than March of 2015, Butina and U.S. Person 1 agreed and conspired, with a Russian government official (“Russian Official”) and at least one other person, for Butina to act in the United States under the direction of Russian Official without prior notification to the Attorney General. Russian Official has served as the Deputy Governor to the Russian Central Bank since at least 2015. He previously served as the First Deputy Chairman of the Federation Council of the Russian Federation. Butina knows Russian Official.

With U.S. Person 1's assistance and subject to Russian Official's direction, Butina sought to establish unofficial lines of communication with Americans having power and influence over U.S. politics. Butina sought to use those unofficial lines of communication for the benefit of the Russian Federation, acting through Russian Official.

In furtherance of the conspiracy, Butina drafted a proposal in March of 2015 titled *Description of the Diplomacy Project*. In it, Butina downplayed the possibility of influencing U.S. foreign policy toward Russia through official channels, criticizing government unwillingness to compromise. As an alternative, Butina suggested that Russia could use unofficial channels of communication to the same end. Butina then cast herself as a possible unofficial transmitter of communications between Russia and the United States. Further, Butina opined that the circumstances were favorable for building relations with a certain U.S. political party (hereafter, "Political Party #1"). Butina predicted that the candidate nominated by Political Party #1 would likely win the upcoming U.S. presidential election. Pointing to her recent travel to the United States, her experience, and her attendance at conferences organized by a certain U.S. civil society gun rights organization (hereafter, "Gun Rights Organization"), which Butina posited had influence over Political Party #1, Butina stated she had laid the groundwork for an unofficial channel of communication with the next U.S. administration. For example, Butina listed actions she had already taken, including being introduced to leaders of Political Party #1 as an unofficial representative of Russian Official. She also identified in her proposal a series of upcoming conferences associated with Political Party #1 that she could attend to further the goal.

The *Description of the Diplomacy Project* was drafted by Butina with U.S. Person 1's assistance. U.S. Person 1 assisted with the proposal by providing Butina with information about prominent U.S. political figures and a forecast of the upcoming presidential election. U.S. Person 1

also assisted by providing information about Vladimir Pozner, a Russian media commentator who, as described in the proposal, had served as the “unofficial transmitter” of the policies of Mikhail Gorbachev and Boris Yeltsin in the United States. Butina sent a Google-translated version of the proposal to U.S. Person 1 once drafted and asked for U.S. Person 1’s advice on it, which he agreed to provide.

Butina sent the proposal to Russian Official and others. As part of the proposal, she requested \$125,000 from a Russian billionaire to attend the conferences identified in the proposal and “separate meetings with interested parties” — including other Russian businessmen or persons at the Russian Ministry of Foreign Affairs (the “MFA”) — to help “determine where the focus of Russian interests lies [sic] in cooperating with the US.” Butina informed U.S. Person 1 that she was meeting with Russian Official and others about the proposal. Russian Official informed Butina that her proposal would be supported, at least in part.

Without prior notification to the Attorney General, Butina then took steps to achieve the object of her agreement with U.S. Person 1. For example, in April of 2015, Butina travelled to the United States to attend a Gun Rights Organization convention. There, Butina highlighted her experience as a gun rights advocate in Russia to gain the attention of the Gun Rights Organization and its members. She was introduced to influential members of Political Party #1, one of whom announced his campaign to run for the presidency of the United States shortly thereafter.

Butina also invited powerful members of the Gun Rights Organization to Moscow to advance her agenda. Before they arrived, U.S. Person 1 provided Butina with background information on the invitees, including his assessment on their degree of political influence in the United States. The members came to Moscow in December of 2015. During the trip, the Gun Rights Organization members met with high-level Russian government officials as arranged by

Russian Official. Prior to the visit, Butina stressed the importance of a political program as part of the trip and asked Russian Official to set up meetings with high-level Russian politicians. After their visit, Butina sent Russian Official a message in Russian, referring to members of the Gun Rights Organization, which has been variously translated as saying, “We should let them express their gratitude now, we will put pressure on them quietly later,” and “We should allow them to express their gratitude now, and then quietly press.”

Butina also assisted a wealthy and well-connected U.S. person in hosting multiple, large “friendship dinners” where other wealthy and influential Americans discussed U.S.-Russian relations. Butina used these “friendship dinners” to cultivate lines of communications with individuals she believed would have the ear of the next U.S. presidential administration. At these dinners, Butina was able to meet individuals with political capital, learn their thoughts and inclinations toward Russia, gauge their responses to her, and adjust her pitch accordingly. In March of 2016 prior to the first of these dinners, Butina told Russian Official about potential American attendees to one of the dinners, based on information Butina obtained from U.S. Person 1. Following that message, she emailed the wealthy, connected U.S. person, copying U.S. Person 1, to say “[Russian Official] is very impressed by you and expresses his great appreciation for what you are doing to restore the relations between the two countries. He also wants you to know that Russians will support the efforts from our side.”

In June of 2016, Butina received an F-1 student visa to enter the United States.¹ In connection with her application, Butina did not disclose that she would be acting as an agent of a foreign government official or otherwise would be working to establish channels of communication between Russian and American government officials.

¹ All available evidence indicates that Butina had interest in a graduate school education.

Also in furtherance of the conspiracy, Butina helped Russian Official organize a Russian delegation to the 2017 National Prayer Breakfast in Washington, D.C. Russian Official directed Butina to include certain people within the delegation and Butina complied with his instructions. Butina then emailed that list of delegation invitees to U.S. Person 1. Butina explained that the people on the list had been “hand-picked by [Russian Official] and me” and that they were “coming to establish a back channel of communication.” Later, U.S. Person 1 emailed another person, copying Butina, to say “Reaction to the delegation’s presence in America will be relayed DIRECTLY” (emphasis in original) to the Russian President and Foreign Minister.

Throughout the conspiracy, Butina wrote notes to Russian Official about her efforts and her assessment of the political landscape in the United States in advance of the 2016 election. Butina wrote some of these notes in response to specific requests from Russian Official. Others she wrote on her own. Butina also sought Russian Official’s advice on whether to take meetings with certain people. She asked him for direction on whether the Russian “government” was ready to meet with some of those people, and he asked her what she planned to do with her “contacts,” lest she and Russian Official be forgotten after the election.

Butina was aware that Russian Official sometimes acted in consultation with the MFA, in addition to his superiors at the Russian Central Bank. For example, in May of 2016, Russian Official tasked Butina with writing him a note to explain why he should be permitted to travel to the United States to attend the annual Gun Rights Organization meeting. She did as he directed, encouraging his attendance partly because of the opportunity to meet political candidates. Butina knew that Russian Official would share this note with his superiors at the Russian Central Bank and MFA to support a request that Russian Official be sent to the annual Gun Rights Organization meeting. In November of 2016, in response to a note from Butina about how to create a dialogue

with the then President-elect's advisors, Russian Official told her that he did not believe the MFA would "go for it."

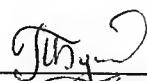
Butina failed to notify the U.S. Attorney General that she would be acting in the United States as an agent of a foreign government official, as required by 18 U.S.C. § 951. At no time relevant to this proffer was Butina a duly accredited diplomatic or consular officer; an officially and publicly acknowledged and sponsored official or representative of the Russian Federation; or an officially and publicly acknowledged and sponsored staff member, employee, or representative thereof.

Finally, if this case had proceeded to trial, the government would have shown that Butina took one or more actions in furtherance of the conspiracy from within the District of Columbia.

DEFENDANT'S ACKNOWLEDGMENT

The preceding statement is a summary made for the purpose of providing the Court with a factual basis for my guilty plea to the charge against me. I make this statement knowingly and voluntarily, and I stipulate and agree that this Statement of Offense concerning my actions is true and accurate. I have read every page of this Statement of Offense and have discussed it with my attorneys Robert Driscoll and Alfred Carry. I am fully satisfied with the legal services provided to me in connection with this plea. No threats have been made to me nor am I under the influence of anything that could impede my ability to understand this Statement of Offense fully.

Date: 12.8.2018



Maria Butina, a/k/a Maria Butina
Defendant

ATTORNEY'S ACKNOWLEDGMENT

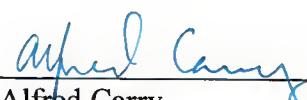
I have read this Statement of Offense and have reviewed it with my client fully. I concur in my client's desire to adopt and stipulate to this Statement of Offense as true and accurate.

Date: 12/8/2018



Robert Driscoll
Attorney for Defendant

Date: 12/8/2018



Alfred Carry
Attorney for Defendant